

**REMARKS**

Applicants have carefully studied the outstanding Official Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The application as examined included claims 1 - 45.

In the present response, claims 1, 15, 21 and 30 are amended. Claims 2 - 13, 16, 19 - 20, 22 - 29 and 31 - 45 are unchanged. Claims 14, 17 and 18 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1 - 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krishan (U.S. Patent No. 6,975,222).

Krishan describes an asset securing and tracking system operating in conjunction with a wireless communication network for tracking a portable asset. The system includes a tracking device adapted to be attached to the portable asset and to communicate with the wireless communication network.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly define the key-operated remotely monitorable locking assembly of the present invention. Amended claim 1 includes the recitations "a key insertion sensor operative to sense whether a key is operatively inserted in said key operated locking assembly," "a wireless communication circuit ... for providing ... a remotely monitorable indication of at least one of key insertion or the absence thereof" and "said wireless communication circuit being operative to allow opening of said lock upon receiving a wireless authorization communication from a remote computer."

Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found in the specification, inter alia, in Figs. 8 and 11A and in the description thereof, specifically in paragraphs [0082] and [0095] of the application as published (U.S. Patent Publication 2008/0036596). Similar amendments are made to claims 15 and 30.

Applicants respectfully submit that Krishan does not show or suggest the

recitation of amended claims 1, 15 or 30, including, inter alia, “a key insertion sensor operative to sense whether a key is operatively inserted in said key operated locking assembly,” “a wireless communication circuit … for providing … a remotely monitorable indication of at least one of key insertion or the absence thereof” and “said wireless communication circuit being operative to allow opening of said lock upon receiving a wireless authorization communication from a remote computer.” Amended claims 1, 15 and 30 are therefore patentable.

Claim 21 is amended to depend from claim 15 instead of cancelled claim 17.

Claims 2 - 13 each depend directly or ultimately from claim 1 and are therefore patentable. Claims 16 and 19 - 29 each depend directly or ultimately from claim 15 and are therefore patentable. Claims 31 - 42 each depend directly or ultimately from claim 30 and are therefore patentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that in the Official Action the Examiner did not address any of the elements recited in claims 43 - 45 and that none of the elements recited are shown or suggested by Krishan.

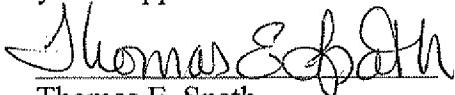
Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as filed in the context of a continuation application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees which may be due and have not been submitted herewith  
to our Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,  
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